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ABSTRACT

Intended to encourage and facilitate research, policy development, and advocacy on issues relevant to those who are in poverty despite employment, this bibliography lists 145 articles and studies focusing on the working poor. Following a description of the search method and a guide to the bibliography, the references are divided into two sections. Those in section 1, "Profile of the Working Poor," cover: (1) general references, including demographics and ethnographies; (2) causes of poverty among low-income workers; (3) attributions and social perceptions of poverty; and (4) women and children. References in section 2, "Policy Issues," cover: (1) general references, including policy alternatives; (2) employment and income distribution; (3) child care; and (4) health care. The 54 references include abstracts downloaded directly from the source databases. (JPB)

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THE FOUNDATION FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

THE WORKING POOR IN AMERICA

A Bibliographical Resource

Compiled by
Ricardo E. Barreras

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WORKING PAPER SERIES

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THE WORKING POOR IN AMERICA

A Bibliographical Resource

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ALSO IN THE WORKING PAPER SERIES:

THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN WORKING POOR FAMILIES
REPORT OF A MEETING
Sheila Smith, Editor

REDUCING POVERTY AMONG AMERICAN CHILDREN THROUGH A "HELP FOR WORKING PARENTS" PROGRAM
Barbara R. Bergmann

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Introduction

In 1991, there were two million adults who lived in poverty despite the fact that they worked full time throughout the year. Another 7.2 million lived in poverty even though they either worked in full-time jobs for part of the year or in part-time jobs. As Levitan, Gallo, and Shapiro (1993) eloquently stated, "the working poor remain America's glaring contradiction. The concurrence of work and poverty is contrary to the American ethos that a willingness to work leads to material advancement, and it negates the prevalent view that the cause of poverty among adults capable of work is deviant behavior, particularly a lack of commitment to work."

The current bibliography is intended to encourage and facilitate research, policy development, and advocacy on issues relevant to those who are in poverty despite work. The objective is to provide a comprehensive resource to what appears to be a limited body of literature. The focus on the working poor is not intended to suggest that the working poor are what has been referred to as the "deserving poor" while the nonworking poor are the "undeserving poor." Rather, there may be certain issues that are more relevant to the working poor than to the nonworking poor. At the same time, many of these references may apply equally to understanding the nonworking poor as well as the working poor.

Search Method

The objective in compiling this bibliography was to be as comprehensive and inclusive as possible. Several databases were searched, including PsychLit (Psychology), Sociofile (Sociology), Econlit (Economics), CUNY Plus (the database of the City University of New York Libraries), Catnip (New York Public Library database) and the Library of Congress database. Various keywords or phrases were used to search through the databases, including: working poor, low-income workers, displaced workers, poverty despite work, forgotten Americans and underclass.

The one limitation related to the comprehensiveness of the bibliography was locating "fugitive literature" or references that for various reasons are very difficult to find (e.g., they are not contained in any database accessible through key word searches or they have uncommon key words assigned to them). To deal with this potential problem, the bibliographies of ten of the most frequently occurring references were also used as sources. These bibliographies were reviewed to locate references about the working poor. Many of these references had been found in the database search. No more bibliographies were reviewed once a saturation point was reached (i.e, when all of the references found in the bibliographies were already contained in the current bibliography). The final number of references included in the bibliography is 145, fifty-four of which include an abstract. The abstracts were directly downloaded from the databases, with permission from the

appropriate institutions in compliance with copyright laws. These abstracts have not been altered or modified from their original form in the databases.

Guide to the Bibliography

The bibliography is divided into different categories grouped under two sections: *Profiles of the Working Poor* and *Policy Issues*. These categories serve as a heuristic device to group the references in meaningful clusters. Other groupings could have been devised. Furthermore, several articles could have been listed under multiple headings. Readers using the bibliography are encouraged to review all of the references rather than only those under a specific category. The first category under section one, *General References*, includes some of the overview pieces. These works tend to cover many areas related to the working poor and are a good starting point for an introduction into this area. There are also several demographic pieces, references that address definitional issues, and ethnographies of the lives of working poor adults and their families. In *Causes of Poverty Among Low-Income Workers*, several references examine economic and structural factors, such as income distribution, tax policy, occupational patterns, and the global economy. Issues specific to rural and urban working poor are also included. Articles in *Attributions and Social Perceptions of Poverty* address the public's perceptions, and misperceptions of the causes of poverty, the attributions that poor and low-income workers make about their circumstances, and the ideologies that maintain and perpetuate poverty. The *Women and Children* category addresses demographics, occupational patterns, and immigrant women.

The second section, *Policy Issues*, contains articles on policy alternatives. In *General References*, a broad range of policy alternatives are discussed. *Employment and Income Distribution Policies* contains references on minimum wage policies, training, the relationship between jobs and poverty, wage subsidies, the Earned Income Tax Credit, income guarantees, income transfer policies, and loan programs. Finally, *Child Care* and *Health Care* both contain references that address barriers the working poor and their families face in gaining access to health and child care and policies designed to overcome these barriers.

This resource to the literature is by no means complete. As one example, no systematic effort was made to locate articles on the housing/shelter needs of working poor families. We intend to update this resource, and welcome your suggestions about books, papers, and articles we have not yet identified.

June 1998

I. PROFILE OF THE WORKING POOR

General References

Danziger, S. & Gottschalk, P. (1985).Testimony, Work and poverty: The special problems of the working poor, Hearing, U.S. Congress, Committee on Government Operations, December 12, p. 22. (1985)

Danziger, S. & Gottschalk, P. (1986). Work, poverty, and the working poor: A multifaceted problem. Monthly Labor Review, 109 (9), 17-21.

Davis, J. C. & Huston, J. H. (1991). Counting the working poor. Southern Economic Journal, 57, 4, April, 144-147.

Duncan, C. M. (Ed.). (1992). Rural poverty in America. New York: Auburn House.

Fine, M. & Weis, L. (1998). The unknown city: Lives of poor and working class young adults. Boston: Beacon Press.

Gardner, J. M. & Herz, D. E. (1992). Working and poor in 1990. Monthly Labor Review, 115 (12), 20-28.

ABSTRACT: This article analyzes the incidence and causes of poverty among U.S. workers and their families, based on 1990 data; the most recent available. It uses the recently developed definition of the working poor: persons who devoted more than half to the year to working or looking for work and who lived in families with incomes below the official poverty level. When the official poverty threshold for a family of four was $13,359 a year, 6.6 million workers in the labor force more than half the year lived in families whose incomes fell below the poverty level (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Griffith, D. C. (1995). Working poor: Farmworkers in the United States. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Greenlee, R. & Lantz, J. (1993). Family coping strategies and the rural Appalachian working poor. Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal. 15 (2), 121-137.

ABSTRACT: Used naturalistic research methods to study working poor from 26 rural Appalachian households. 32 in-depth family interviews lasting from 2-4 hrs each were

conducted with the Ss. Most of the Ss reported that depression was a common reaction to the stress of long-term, working poverty. Ss also reported anxiety and worry. Emotional coping strategies included a view of the world with a focus only on the present and the problems at hand, alcohol, medication to relieve the anxiety and depression, isolation, and religion. The most predominant supports were extended family and friends. Families used a range of survival strategies to make it without resorting to welfare dependency. (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1993 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved)

Haugen, S. E. & Mellor E. F. (1990). Estimating the number of minimum wage workers. Monthly Labor Review, Jan., 70-74.

Hernandez, D. J. (1993). America's children: Resources from family, government, and the economy. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

ABSTRACT: Analyzes the changing resources available to children over the past 50 to 150 years, drawing on U.S. Census data, Current Population surveys, and other research. Discusses the revolutionary decline in the number of siblings in families over the past 150 years; the changing mix of parents and grandparents in the homes of children born; transformations in parents' work and in the economic foundation of family life; and revolutions in child care arrangements. Examines parents' education, changes in the equality of educational opportunities, and children advantaged or disadvantaged by their family situation; changes in family income experienced by children since the Great Depression and the proportion of children living in relative poverty, comfort, or luxury; child poverty and the extent to which it is associated with working-poor, welfare-dependent, or mothers-only families; and the contribution of changes in family size and in the sources of family income, including welfare payments, to trends in child poverty. Investigates relationships between major trends by exploring reasons for the changes in fathers' incomes, for the rise of mothers' labor force participation, and for the rise in mother-only families. Summarizes the changes in the resources available to children and in their life-course circumstances, with special emphasis on important differences by race and Hispanic origin. Hernandez is chief of the Marriage and Family Statistics Branch of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Bibliography; name and subject indexes (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved) .

Klein, B. W. & Rones, P. L. (1989). A profile of the working poor. Monthly Labor Review, 112 (10), 3-13.

ABSTRACT: This article focuses on persons who are labor force participants but live in poor families. The labor market experiences and family circumstances of these persons are

contrasted with those of persons in the work force who are not poor. Among the findings are: (1) the working poor were about one-third of all persons age sixteen and over who are in poverty; (2) labor market problems–unemployment or the inability to find full-time work–are most likely to cause poverty; (3) the presence of more than one worker in a family dramatically lowers the probability of poverty; and (4) unmarried women maintaining families are the workers with the greatest risk of living in poverty (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Levitan, S. A. & Shapiro, I. (1987). Working but poor: America's contradiction. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

ABSTRACT: Examination of the working poor in the labor market and the federal policy responses to aid their plight. Provides a profile of the working poor, reviews the severity of their income problems, and examines the nature of low-wage job markets. Discusses the impact of high unemployment, technological developments, and international competition on the working poor. Scrutinizes the factors contributing to the contradiction of widespread and increasing poor in an affluent and expanding economy. Emphasizes the role and responsibility of the federal government in alleviating these problems, and assesses four government efforts: (1) minimum wage and tax policies enabling the working poor to attain economic self-sufficiency; (2) policies that remove employment obstacles such as job training programs and equal employment opportunities; (3) policies that help the employable poor find jobs; and (4) income assistance and supplemental benefits to low-income workers. Concludes with recommendations for a modified federal agenda. Levitan is a research professor and director at the George Washington University Center for Social Policy Studies. Shapiro is a research analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Index (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

McNeil, J. (1992). Workers with low earnings: 1964 to 1990. Washington: Government Printing Office, March, Census Bureau Current Publication Report, Series P-60, No. 178, p. 3, plus unpublished data.

Mead, L. (1992). The new politics of poverty: The working poor in America. New York: Basic Books.

Mellor, E. F. (1992). A profile of the working poor (no. 847 HC110.P6). Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics.

Murray, C. (1987). In search of the working poor. The Public Interest, 89 (l), 3-19.

National Council Welfare, Ottawa Ontario (1978). The working poor. Social Indicators Research, 5 (3), 345-364.

ABSTRACT: While 60% of low-income Canadians derive most of their income from work, there is little published material on the characteristics of those working poor individuals & families. Data drawn from a survey of 1973 family incomes in Canada from Statistics Canada's Survey of Consumer Finances are used to provide such information. Working poor are defined as those economic families in which no member is aged 65 or over, total income is below Statistics Canada's revised low-income cut-off, & more than 50% of total family income comes from wages, salaries, or self-employment. These families are overrepresented in rural areas. Many of them are single young persons aged under 25, but when those under 25 are eliminated from the sample, single young persons become less overrepresented, & families with children increase substantially. Large families are more prevalent. This group is less educated than the nonpoor, but more so than the nonworking poor. Women are overrepresented among unattached individuals, but not among heads of families with children. Self-employment is more common than among the nonpoor; families with two or more working members are underrepresented; & heads of families are attached to the working force, but likely to be unemployed part of the year. 19 Tables. Modified HA (Copyright 1979, Sociological Abstracts, Inc., all rights reserved.)

Nord, S. & Sheets, R. G. (1992). Service industries and the working poor in major metropolitan areas in the United States. In E. S. Mills & J. F. McDonald (Eds.), Sources of metropolitan growth (p. 255-278). New Brunswick, N.J.: Center for Urban Policy Research.

Schwarz, J. E. & Volgy, T. J. (1992). The forgotten Americans. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Swartz, T. R. & Weigert, K. M. (1995). America's working poor. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

U.S. Congress. Joint Committee on the Economic Report. Subcommittee on low income families. (1949). Low income families and economic stability. 81st Congress., 1st session, Committee print.

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1993). A profile of the working poor, 1988-90 (Bulletin 2418, iv, 27) . Washington, DC

Vaz-Pato, M. & Williamson, J. B. (1979). Socioeconomic achievement: The case of the working poor. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 6 (2), 245-264.

ABSTRACT: In recent years a great deal of effort has gone into the specification of causal models describing the social mobility process, but virtually no effort has been made to specify a model for the poor-a segment of the population for which the issue of social mobility is particularly crucial. In questioning whether the process of socioeconomic achievement for the poor can be described using the same model as for the nonpoor, it is concluded that a separate model is needed. Data were provided by a national cross-section panel study in which 2,700 respondents (male heads of household in the labor force) were interviewed once yearly for 5 consecutive years. Variables such as father's education & father's occupational status have a stronger impact on the occupational status of the poor than of the nonpoor. Education, on the other hand, has a stronger impact on the occupational status of the nonpoor. These differences are summarized in separate path models for the poor & for the nonpoor. 4 Tables, 2 Figures. Modified HA (Copyright 1981, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Causes of Poverty Among Low Income Workers

Blackburn, M. L., Bloom, D. E., & Freeman, R. B. (1990). The declining economic position of less-skilled American men. In G. Burtless (Eds.), A Future of Lousy Jobs? Washington, DC: Brookings Institute.

Blank, R. M. & Card, D. (1993). Poverty, income distribution, and growth: Are they still connected? Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. Number 2.

Bluestone, B. W. & Harrison, B. (1986). The great American job machine: The proliferation of low-wage employment in the US. economy. Joint Economic Committee, December.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (1986). Taxes on working poor rises for sixth straight year (April 9). Washington DC

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (1985). Smaller slices of the pie: The growing economic vulnerability of poor and moderate income Americans. Washington, DC, November, p. 30.

Cunningham, S. & Reed, B. (1995). Balancing budgets on women's backs: The World Bank and the 104th U.S. Congress. Dollars and Sense, 202, Nov-Dec, 2-25.

ABSTRACT: A discussion of the relationship between the national deficit, budget cuts, & the demonization of working mothers, with an emphasis on the World Bank's (WB) structural adjustment programs (SAB) & the US Republican Party's Contract with America

(CWA). While ostensibly, the WB is committed to furthering the role of poor women through development, SAP programs, by demanding that nations cut back on domestic spending to receive international loans, disproportionately influence women, who make up the largest sector of the disadvantaged impacted by such cutbacks. This is due primarily to the fact that SAPs are blind to gender issues & the ways that women's labor - in arenas such as child care, the home, & small agriculture - exist outside of traditional work venues & ideals. Further, while SAPs' primary goals have been to decrease poverty & debt by encouraging production of exportable commodities, the jobs created by this emphasis both rely on women & are typically low paying, & thus reinforce feminine inequality. Representing a similar approach to institutionalize inequality, US measures designed to provide job training & tax credits for welfare recipients & the working poor are scheduled to be discontinued under the CWA. It is concluded that while these measures all claim to be plans for debt reduction, such benefits are never achieved & instead only reinforce gender differences. J. Mac Dowell (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Danziger, S. H. & Gottschalk, P. (Ed.). (1990). Uneven tides: Rising inequality in America. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Kaufman, B. E. (1976). Does foreign trade benefit the American working poor? Madison: University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Levy, F. (1987). The changing American income distribution. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Basic Books.

Levy, F. & Murnane, R. J. (1990). U.S. Earning levels and earnings inequality: A review of recent trends and proposed explanations. Journal of Economic Literature, 30, 1333-1381.

Lewis, M. (1978). The culture of inequality. New York: New American Library.

Polachek, S. W. (Ed). (1996). Research in labor economics (Vol. 15). Greenwich, Conn. and London: JAI Press.

ABSTRACT: Eleven papers consider issues relating to labor economics and economic well-being. Papers examine growth and labor mobility; evidence from matched Current Population Surveys on the effects of minimum wages on teenage employment and enrollment; public policies for the working poor–the earned income tax credit versus minimum wage legislation; the structure and consequences of eligibility rules for a social program–a study of the Job Training Partnership Act; the laboratory approach to testing job search models; an econometric analysis of the demand for private schooling; whether it pays to attend an elite private college–evidence from the senior high school class of 1980;

employer size and labor turnover; unions and productivity in the public sector–the case of sanitation workers; evaluating mental health capitation treatment–lessons from panel data; and an event analysis of female labor supply. Polachek is with the Department of Economics at the State University of New York, Binghamton (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Rector, R. et al. (1989). Dispelling the myth of income inequality. Backgrounder, Washington DC June 6.

Reischauer, R. D. (1987). Welfare reform and the working poor, in The Center for National Policy (Eds.), Reducing poverty and dependence, Washington, DC

Ryscavage, P. & Henle, P. (1980). Earning inequality in the 1980s. Monthly Labor Review, Dec., 3-16.

Thompson, A. & McDowell, D. R. (1994). Determinants of poverty among workers in metro and nonmetro areas of the South. Review of Black Political Economy, 22 (4), 159-77.

ABSTRACT: This analysis examines selected factors affecting work and poverty in metro and nonmetro areas of the South, including rates of labor force participation and the demographic, economic, industrial and occupational characteristics of the working poor. The results indicate that being a female head of household is the most important factor in distinguishing poor and nonpoor working persons. The odds of workers in female-headed families being poor was nearly six times higher than for workers in other family types. The number of earners in the family, race, and industry structure are also significant in accounting for the variation in poverty status among employed persons. The implications of these findings for ameliorating the plight of the working poor are explored (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Attributions and Social Perceptions of Poverty

Gilens, M. (1996) Race and poverty in America: Public misperceptions and the American news media. Public Opinion Quarterly, 60 (4), 515-541.

ABSTRACT: The relationship between news media portrayals & public images of poverty is investigated, drawing on analysis of stories on poverty & related topics presented 1988-1992 in three leading US news magazines or on the three major TV networks. Results indicate that network TV news & weekly news magazines portray the poor as substantially more black than is really the case. In more detailed analyses of news magaines, the most

sympathetic subgroups of the poor (eg, the elderly & the working poor) are underrepresented. These discrepancies between magazine portrayals of the poor & the true nature of poverty are greater for African Americans than for others. 4 Tables, 1 Appendix, 44 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1997, Sociological Abstracts, Inc., all rights reserved.)

Gulati, P. (1992). Ideology. Public policy and homeless families. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 19 (4), 113-128.

ABSTRACT: Homelessness in the 1980s was defined by conservatives as a problem affecting drug users, alcoholics, & the mentally ill, i.e., result of individual pathology. The more recent rise of homelessness among the working poor & families with children raises questions regarding the underlying causes of homelessness & the directions of public policy. The conservative ideology regarding poverty has had devastating consequences for low-income women & children. For some, the result has been increasing poverty & decreasing access to low-income housing. The connections between family homelessness, the feminization of poverty, & the breakdown of the social safety net are not hard to establish. Solutions should focus not solely on the personal problems of the poor, but also on restructuring badly frayed social safety networks. Programs that address the needs of the. mentally ill, substance abusers, & dysfunctional families need to be developed. 3 Figures, 48 References. Modified AA (Copyright 1993, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Lykes, M. B., Banuazizi, A., Liem, R. & Morris, M. (Ed.) (1996). Myths about the powerless: Contesting social inequalities. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

Morris, M. (1996). Culture, structure, and the underclass. In M. B. Lykes, A. Banuazizi, R. Liem & M. Morris (Eds.) Myths about the powerless: Contesting social inequalities (pp. 34-49). Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press..

Piven, F. F. & Cloward, R. A. (1996). Welfare reform and the new class war. In M. B. Lykes, A. Banuazizi, R. Liem & M. Morris (Eds.) Myths about the powerless: Contesting social inequalities (pp. 72-86). Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

Weis, L. & Fine, M. (1996). Narrating the 1980s and 1990s: Voices of poor and working-class white and African American men. Anthropology and Education Quarterly, 27 (4), 493-516.

ABSTRACT: Compares how urban poor & working-class African-American & white men create social critique & the extent to which they blame structural factors for their seemingly

personal troubles. Interview data from 150+ such men, ages 24-35, in Buffalo, NY, & Jersey City, NJ, reveal that economic factors have similar effects on these groups, yet their different vantage points - their biographies of race - stimulate them to live out their class & gender locations differently, encouraging African-American men to blame the economy & racism for their current hardships, & white men to simply blame black men. 32 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1997, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Women and Children

No Author (1996). Women swell ranks of working poor. World of Work, 17, Sept-Oct, 4-7.

ABSTRACT: : Recent statistics indicate that more females (Fs) are entering the international workforce; 45% of all the world's Fs ages 15-64 are economically active. F labor participation has increased in nearly all regions of the world, with only the Gulf states resisting this trend. Despite working in greater numbers, however, Fs work longer hours for less pay than men, are most likely to be last hired & first fired, & encounter serious discrimination in education, job opportunities, & working conditions. Strategies for improving this situation include enforcement of the principle of comparable worth, improvement of occupational safety & health for F workers, guaranteeing F workers freedom of association & the right to organize & bargain collectively, & adoption of F-sensitive labor market regulation & measures to reduce F labor market vulnerability. 2 Figures, 3 Photographs. D. Generoli (Copyright 1997, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Axelson, L. J. & Dail, P. W. (1988). The changing character of homelessness in the United States. Family Relations, 37 (4), 463-469.

ABSTRACT: A historical perspective on the changing character of the homeless in the US-from their origins in Saxon England, to the hobos or mobile laborers of the expanding American West, to today's complex homeless population. The contemporary homeless include a growing number of single mothers with children, runaway youths, & working poor; about 50% may be mentally/chemically disabled, & the rest have experienced economic, social, or personal crises leading to homelessness. The status of low-income housing & family shelters is described, & recommendations for public policy programs are presented. 32 References. M. Mal. (Copyright 1990, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Edin, K. & Lein, L. (1997). Making ends meet: How single mothers survive welfare and low wage work. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Figart, D. M. & Lapidus, J. (1995). A gender analysis of U.S. labor market policies for the working poor. Feminist Economics, 1 (3), 60-81.

Hartman, H. et al. (1997). An institute for women's policy: Research report on low-income families: Survival strategies and well-being. Institute for Women's Policy Research

Mueller, E. J. (1994). Running hard to stay in one place: Low-wage poverty among immigrant women in Los Angeles. Economic Development Quarterly, 8 (2), 158-170.

ABSTRACT: Low-wage poverty is becoming more prevalent in cities such as Los Angeles, CA, in which downgraded manufacturing & service-sector jobs are increasingly filled by females (Fs). Here, fieldwork conducted among 120 F immigrant domestic workers is used to argue that popular theoretical explanations of low-wage poverty are inadequate, since they rely on simplistic assumptions about F roles at home & the organization of their households. Within households, differing domestic burdens for Fs are identified & related to the composition of each household & to relationships among household members. These burdens, in turn, are linked to Fs' ability to work consistently. Increased support for those community organizations best able to develop appropriate services for poor working Fs are advocated, & recommendations are made for the systematic evaluation of current programs. 1 Table. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1994, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Powell, D. R. (1988) Support groups for low-income mothers: Design considerations and patterns of participation. In B. J. Gottlieb (Eds.) Marshaling social support: Formats, processes, and effects (pp. 111-134). Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

REVIEW: (from the chapter) examines a group-based intervention program for mothers of infants in a low-income neighborhood /// begins with a description of the program design, including the theoretical and practical rationales for the structure, content, and delivery of program services /// second section of the chapter summarizes our major findings about the processes and predictors of participation in the program /// examine participation processes, we investigated relationships among different indices of participation over time /// concludes with a discussion of the findings' implications for emergent conceptualizations and designs of peer interventions with low-income parents (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Stellman, J. M. (1987). The working environment of the working poor: An analysis based on workers' compensation claims, Census data and known risk factors. Women and Health, 12 (3-4), 83-101.

ABSTRACT: Analysis of 1980 US Census data reveals that a sizeable % of adult Fs employed full-time worked in F-dominated service, sales, & factory occupations & had family incomes placed them in poverty status. Workers' compensation data on Fs in these occupations, drawn from the 27-state Supplemental Data System, show that they filed approximately 250,000 claims for compensation in 1980. Results of analysis of the claims by nature of injury & body part affected are consistent with the published medical literature. Injury to the back is the leading complaint, followed by hand & wrist injuries. Compensation data, however, are usually reflective of acute conditions, especially traumatic injury, not of chronic illness & injuries. Review of additional data from the medical & scientific literature shows the presence of cancer-causing agents, infectious agents, reproductive toxins, safety hazards, & social stressors in these occupations. 6 Tables, 22 References. HA (Copyright 1988, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

National Commission on Working Women of Wider Opportunities for Women. (1988). No way out: Working poor women in the United States. Washington, DC

Wertheimer, R. (1996). Characteristics of working poor families and their children. Child Trends, Inc., Washington DC, 4301 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 100

Zaslow, M. J. & Emig, C.A. (1997). When low-income mothers go to work: Implications for children. The Future of Children, 7 (1), 110-115.

Zhou, M. & Nordquist, R. (1994). Work and its place in the lives of immigrant women: Garment workers in New York City's Chinatown. Applied Behavioral Science Review, 2(2), 187-211.

ABSTRACT: Explores the meaning of immigrant Chinese women's work in the context of ethnic enclave employment & family responsibility. Census data & fieldwork in the garment district of New York City's Chinatown reveal that: their high rate of labor participation is related to the availability of jobs provided by the ethnic enclave economy; they are dramatically overrepresented in low-wage menial jobs; & they tend to perceive their work as meaningful, despite low wages, long working hours, & poor working conditions. These findings suggest that survival is more important than workspace rights & that wage labor is an indispensable part of social mobility. Policy implications of these findings are discussed. 3 Figures, 43 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

II. POLICY ISSUES

General References

Breslow, M. (1995). Can we still win the war on poverty? Dollars and Sense, 200 (July-Au), 8-11, 40.

ABSTRACT: Believing that high poverty rates, long-term unemployment, & changing family structures are all the result of President John F. Kennedy's misguided war on poverty, House Republicans & President Bill Clinton have all pledged to "end welfare as we know it." It is contended here that the war on poverty has failed because too little money was spent on it, not too much. Programs such as welfare, food stamps, housing assistance, & Medicaid undermine incentives to obtain low-wage work; but rather than severely restrict benefits to nonworkers, the more humane solution would be to allow low-income workers to keep some of their government benefits as their wages rise. Several myths that have framed the current debate on poverty programs are debunked. 1 Figure, 6 References. M. Maguire (Copyright 1995, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Burghardt, S. (1987). Working under the safety net: Policy and practice with the new American poor. Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

Caputo, R. K. (1991). Durations of work and poverty among working poor household heads: Comparison of blacks and whites by selected characteristics. Paper written for the American Sociological Association. School Social Work, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104-6214 [Tel: 215-898-5505]

ABSTRACT: Data from the 1984 Survey of Income & Program Participation are used to assess: (1) the extent to which increased labor force participation is a viable policy option enabling the working poor to escape poverty, & (2) the effects of income transfers on labor force participation. For a select subsample of working poor household heads, findings reveal that majorities of households that were poor all the time had household heads who worked all the time, as did many households that were poor some of the time. The finding was most pronounced for whites, suggesting that black males (Ms) &, to a lesser degree, black females (Fs) could benefit from programs designed to encourage longer-term employment. Such a policy, however, would have little effect on households that were poor all the time & whose heads worked all the time, most notably F-headed households whose heads would benefit more from increased skills to make them more competitive for better paying jobs. The findings in regard to the effects of income transfers were mixed. On one

hand, among households that were poor some of the time, higher %s of white F & black M household heads worked all the time, thereby casting doubt that receipt of income transfers is a disincentive to work. On the other hand, among households that were poor some of the time, higher %s of white M & black F household heads worked some of the time rather than all the time, giving credence to the disincentive effects of welfare receipt. In light of these findings the merits of a racial- & gender-neutral, universal policy (eg, expanded use of the earned income tax credit) to raise the income level of the working poor above poverty are discussed. (Copyright 1991, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Chilman, C. S. (1995). Programs and policies for working poor families: Major trends and some research issues. Social Service Review, 69 (3), 515-524.

ABSTRACT: Major welfare reform proposals focus on moving recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) from economic dependency to self-sufficiency through employment. Success in reaching this goal depends on whether recipients can secure adequately paying, permanent employment. This seems unlikely for many, in that even if they find jobs, they may well join the ranks of the working poor. Provided here is a critical overview of studies concerning the working poor & recent federal legislation that seeks to reduce their problems. Further legislation, research, & careful consideration of welfare reform self-sufficiency goals for AFDC recipients are proposed. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Craypo, C. (1991). Industrial restructuring and the working poor in a Midwestern U.S. factory town. Labour and Society, (2), 153-173.

Currie, J. (Reviewer). (1997). Review of: Saving our children from poverty: What the United States can learn from France. Journal of Economic Literature, 35 (4), 2067-2069.

REVIEW: This thoughtful and provocative book argues that by selectively adapting social programs that have been successful in France, the United States could make a significant impact on child poverty. The example of France is not randomly chosen. Three aspects that make it potentially relevant to the U.S. are an integration of public and private service delivery (rather than the wholesale replacement of private services), a proportion of births to single mothers that is similar to that found in the U.S., and the presence of a sizable minority population that faces discrimination from the French majority.

The book can be divided into three parts. The first provides a fascinating discussion of the network of programs that are available to French families with children. This section should prove particularly interesting to American readers interested in foreign social welfare

systems. The second part provides an overview of comparable services available in the U. S. The territory covered here will be familiar to U.S. readers interested in welfare issues. In the last two chapters of the book, the author sets forth her own five-point plan for adapting elements of the French system to American shores, and discusses the political context constraining real reform of the U.S. welfare system.

The point lies in the comparison of the French and American systems. The book draws two broad contrasts: First, while the U.S. system focuses on the lowest income families, the French system provides benefits to a much wider group. Providing support for middle income families increases political support for family programs. Unfortunately, it also increases their costs. Second, the U.S. system provides few incentives for families on welfare to work. As the author points out, given that more than half of women working full time in 1993 earned less than $24,255, it is highly unlikely that a welfare mother will be able to earn enough to make her family better off working full time than she would be on welfare. The French system on the other hand, provides work incentives by making most benefits available to poor working families (single headed or married), and by conditioning some benefits on evidence of labor force attachment.

The "Helping Working Parents" plan that Professor Bergmann offers includes: Health insurance for all families with children; free child care for families in the lowest quintile and a sliding scale of fees for families in the next two quintiles; continuation of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Food Stamps programs; improved child support enforcement through the Internal Revenue Service; and the replacement of the current cash welfare program with some kind of mostly in-kind safety net for those who cannot make it in the labor market.

She estimates that this package would cost $5,000 more per family (or about 50% more) than the current bundle of benefits available under Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamps, and Medicaid. Most of the increased costs come from the health and child care benefits. She also bravely provides an estimate of the net increase in expenditures her plan would entail: $86 billion (a sum that can be compared to annual expenditures of approximately $22 billion on the AFDC program). The problem here is that it is difficult to forecast the changes in behavior that would take place under the plan. Given the importance of potential costs to the whole discussion, it would perhaps have been useful to see estimates under different scenarios about likely effects on labor force participation, extent of "crowd-out" of private health insurance and private child care, and so on.

Professor Bergmann clearly regards the first two elements of this plan as the most controversial, and accordingly spends much time defending them. Her calculations indicate that if these "big ticket" items were provided, then families with two children and one minimum wage earner would be able to live decently. She also highlights the negative externalities to be suffered if children receive inadequate medical care and child care. Finally, she suggests that direct provision of clearly necessary services to children may be more politically palatable than cash transfers to parents.

Given the centrality of health and child care services to her plan, it would have been useful to have more discussion of existing evidence regarding the effects of providing these services from evaluations of state and federal programs. For example, there is no discussion of whether provision of health insurance alone is likely to remove barriers to adequate health care (though given the discussion of extensive public health measures in France one suspects that it would not be), or of the likely magnitude of the effects of child care provision on female labor force participation.

There are also judgments made along the way that some readers may quarrel with. For example, Professor Bergmann dismisses job training programs as having failed (p. 98), appears to blame rising Medicaid costs mainly on fraud (p. 105) rather than general inflation in the market for health care, and seems to suggest curbs on illegal immigration and teen employment as ways to increase labor force opportunities for welfare mothers (p. 134).

However, whether or not one embraces her arguments, it is hard to disagree with Professor Bergmann's main contention that the presence of many poor children in a country as rich as the United States is a "disgrace." This book serves a useful purpose in refocusing the debate about programs for poor families on the real needs of children rather than on the failings of their parents. And it reminds us that it is likely to cost more rather than less than we currently spend to make a real dent in child poverty (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Gordon, D. M. (1979). The working poor: Towards a state agenda (Series: Studies in state development policy; 4). Washington, DC, Council of State Planning Agencies, pp. 87-90.

Shapiro, I. (1991, December). The states and the poor: How budget decisions in 1991 affected low income people. Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Center for the Study of States, pp. 21-23.

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Waiguchu, J. M. (1993). Redeveloping working poor communities and neighborhoods: A general guide. San Francisco: Austin and Winfield.

Employment and Income Distribution

Belcher, J. R. (1994). How to help the working poor develop assets. Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 21 (4), 57-74.

ABSTRACT: Explores the inability of the working poor in the US to withstand income shocks, arguing that because they often lack assets, the working poor are increasingly vulnerable to increasing deprivation. Interestingly, the welfare state enables the middle class to develop & maintain assets through institutional arrangements. It is argued that solutions to the problem of poverty must include ways for the working poor also to accumulate & maintain assets. 1 Table, 41 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1995, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Blank, R. M., & Blinder, A. S. (1986). Macroeconomics, income distribution and poverty. In S. Danziger, & D. H. Weinberg (Eds.), Fighting poverty: What works and what doesn't (p. 198). Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

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Bluestone, B., Murphy, W.M., & Steveson, M. (1973). Low wages and the working poor. Ann Arbor: Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Michigan--Wayne State University.

Burkhauser, R.V. & Finegan, T. A. (1988). The minimum wage and the poor: The end of a relationship. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 8 (1), 53-71.

ABSTRACT: The belief that minimum wage legislation helps the working poor is one reason for its continued popular support. Here, data from the 1950-1980 decennial censuses & the 1985 Current Population Survey are used to track changes in the characteristics & household incomes of US low-wage workers; they reveal that a radical transformation has occurred in the half century since the passage of the original minimum wage law: today, most low-wage workers live in households well above the poverty line. Thus, those living in poverty will only get about 11% of the gains from the higher minimum wage increase proposed in the 1988 Kennedy-Hawkins Bill, while low-wage workers in families with incomes 3 or more times the poverty line will get nearly 40%. Therefore, it is not clear that increases in the minimum wage make good policy even if no jobs are lost as a result. 3 Tables, 1 Figure, 1 Appendix. Modified HA (Copyright 1989, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Burkhauser, R.V. (1994). Public policies for the working poor: The earned income tax credit vs. minimum wage legislation. Employment Policies Institute: Washington, DC (607 14th St., N.W., Suite 1110, Washington 20005).

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Caputo, R. K. (1989). Limits of welfare reform. Social Casework, 70 (2), 85-95.

ABSTRACT: The impact that structural shifts in the US economy & society have had on employment & on the quality of life for the working poor & the hard to employ is investigated using statistics from several sources for the period 1959-1986. Barriers to employing the hard to employ-particularly never-employed black youth, single mothers, & dislocated workers-are examined, & past, current, & proposed policies in the areas of welfare reform, job training, & education are evaluated. 5 Tables. Modified HA (Copyright 1989, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

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Clark, C. M. & Kavanagh, C. (1996). Basic income, inequality, and unemployment: Rethinking the linkage between work and welfare. Journal of Economic Issues,

30 (2), 399-406.

ABSTRACT: Basic income refers to a level of income paid to individuals regardless of employment or skills & would provide universal coverage to all individuals, eliminate the unfair & arbitrary dual welfare state, bring all persons to the poverty level, & increase the income levels of the working poor by eliminating the poverty trap common to many welfare systems. Conservative, liberal, green, & institutionalist arguments for & against a basic income approach are discussed. 19 References. D. Generoli (Copyright 1997, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

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Corcoran, M. & Hill, M. S. (1980). Unemployment and poverty. Social Service Review, 54 (3), 407-413.

ABSTRACT: The relationship between unemployment & poverty for the years 1967-1975 is examined, utilizing data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics for 1,251 M heads of household aged 35-64 in 1976, who were household heads & labor force participants throughout the period studied. It was found that the number of persons in such households living in poverty would have been reduced by about 10% if all unemployment of household heads had been eliminated. Among prime-age men, the working poor were almost twice as likely as other workers to become unemployed &, when unemployed, the poor lost twice as large a fraction of their expected ten-year work time & labor income. Policies to reduce unemployment of household heads can thus be expected to aid the working poor more than the working nonpoor. 2 Tables. Modified HA (Copyright 1982, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Dellaportas, G. (1986). The effectiveness of public assistance payments (1970-80) in reducing poverty reconsidered: The "safety net" was still very leaky in 1980, but less so, and more working poor may have been aided. American Journal of Economics and Sociology, 45 (1), 1-8.

ABSTRACT: The effectiveness of public assistance in reducing poverty in the US is reexamined by estimating the extent of public assistance among all families, & among families officially defined as being in, or not in, poverty. Census data for 1970 & 1980, &

statistics on changes between these years, are examined. Errors of commission (assisting nonpoor families) & of omission (not assisting poor families) were still widespread in 1980, although less so than in the 1970s. 3 Tables. Modified HA (Copyright 1986, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Danziger, S. & Gottschalk, P. (1985). Testimony, Work and poverty: The special problems of the working poor: Hearing, U.S. Congress, Committee on Government Operations, Employment and Housing Subcommittee, House of Representatives, 99th Congress, 1st session, December 12, 1985 (Shipping list no.: 86-311-P., microfiche: Item 1016-A, 1016-B)

Figart, D. M. & Lapidus, J. (1995). A gender analysis of U.S. labor market policies for the working poor. Feminist Economics, 1 (3), 60-81.

ABSTRACT: Current antipoverty policy proposals in the US focus on welfare reform to the exclusion of reforming the low-wage labor market. Examined here are two policy proposals aimed at low-wage labor markets - a national comparable worth policy & an increase in the minimum wage - focusing on their impact by gender. Analysis of data from the 1992 Current Population Survey for a sample of 7,280 females (Fs) & 7,538 males (Ms) suggests that while both proposals would reduce poverty among working Fs, the impact of a comparable worth policy on F poverty would be greater under most scenarios presented. It is estimated that an increase of 96 cents per hour in the national minimum wage would be necessary to equal the poverty reduction effect for F workers of a comparable worth policy that excludes small employers. Both policies decrease the incidence of poverty-level wages less among M, since roughly 60% of minimum wage workers are Fs. Additionally, not only would a national comparable worth policy improve the economic status of low-waged F workers, it would also narrow the gap between M & F poverty. While an increase in the minimum wage would also reduce this gap, comparable worth would virtually eliminate it. 4 Tables, 3 Appendixes, 48 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Freeman, R. (1981). Troubled workers in the labor market. Seventh Annual Report: The federal interest in employment and training. Appendix A. (Washington, DC: National Commission for Employment Policy, October), pp. 106, 112, 115.

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Gramlich, E. M. (1976). Impact of minimum wages on other wages, employment, and family incomes, Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, pp. 419-452.

Greer, L. S. (1992). Underemployment, the working poor and rural community development: Some theoretical and methodological issues. Paper written for the Rural Sociological Society, Clinch Valley College, Wise VA 24293 (Tel:703-679-9865).

ABSTRACT: A critical, selective review of the literature on underemployment (low wage & involuntary part-time employment) & on poverty, particularly among the working poor, points out the utter lack of interchange between the researchers in these two fields, despite the clear acknowledgment within each field that low-wage & involuntary part-time employment are major contributors to poverty. This lack of connection is explained as a function of specialization boundaries, methodological choices & units of analysis, & different theoretical assumptions. Two regional case studies, in Pa & Va, are presented to: (1) show the current lack of data bases that reveal underemployment at a community or regional level, (2) note the probable impacts of underemployment on community economic development, & (3) assert the importance of developing better data bases. (Copyright 1992, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Kelly, R. F. (1988). The urban underclass and the future of work-family relations research. Special Issue: Work and family: Theory, research, and applications. Journal of Social Behavior and Personality, 3 (4), 45-54.

ABSTRACT: Presents a descriptive analysis of the urban underclass in which the economic concepts of the informal economy and opportunity costs are central. Illustrations of work-family (W-F) causal linkages deriving from previous analyses of the underclass are developed as examples of the benefits that should result from the proposed integration. It is argued that W-F researchers should focus attention on public policy issues in the 1990s. In particular the impact of new federal workfare proposals on low-income families is important. Two additional projects concerning the politics of small birth cohorts and the past acceptance of weak methodology are discussed for future W-F research. (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1989 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved).

Howard, C. (1994). Happy returns: How the working poor got tax relief. American Prospect, 0 (17), 46-53.

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ABSTRACT: Described an innovative interest-free loan program (LP) established in a midwestern metropolitan area during the 1980s. This was a response to the deteriorating economic circumstances of many low-wage-earning single parents and their dependent children. The personal characteristics and economic circumstances of the target population and the purposes for which loans were obtained are discussed. The LP included a research component with 4 objectives. Loan recipients were in their late 20s or early 30s and did not have more than 2 children (mean age 8+ yrs). Transportation-related and housing-related were 2 of the most popular loan areas. A structured 20-min telephone interview with recipients 7-8 mo after they received a loan was conducted. The primary purposes for which the loans were used highlighted problems faced by working poor single parents. (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1991 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved)

Kim, M. & Mergoupis, T. (1997). The working poor and welfare recipiancy: Participation, evidence, and policy directions. Journal of Economic Issues, 31 (3), 707-28.

ABSTRACT: Two-thirds of the working poor who qualify for Food Stamps, and one-third of those who have qualified for AFDC, have not received benefits. The working poor do not take advantage, fair or unfair, of government assistance and failure to receive benefits is not due to lack of need. The working poor are surprisingly similar to the general population in demographic characteristics and are not unusual in work ethic, family composition, or education. Their low-paid, unstable jobs relegate them to the ranks of poverty. Policies that address the low pay and job instability will provide real assistance (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

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ABSTRACT: The need for affordable child care for the working poor & moderate-income families is examined using interview data from a 1987 telephone survey of a random sample of 750 Mass households with at least one child age 12 or younger. Current child care arrangements (including parental & nonparental care), the price of child care, & consequences of unaffordable child care are explored. It is concluded that lack of affordable child care is a significant problem in low- & moderate-income families, & several solutions are suggested, eg, price subsidies, changes in employer policies, & government assistance plans. 6 Tables, 2 Figures, 17 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1992, Sociological Abstracts, Inc., all rights reserved.)

Mincy, R. B. (1990). Raising the minimum wage: Effects on family poverty. Monthly Labor Review, 113 (7), 18-25.

Moscovice, I. & Craig, W. (1984). The omnibus budget reconciliation act and the working poor. Social Service Review, 58 (1), 49-62.

ABSTRACT: Working Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients were significantly affected by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. A majority were terminated from the program, losing cash & Medicaid benefits. The impact of these changes on the ability of welfare recipients to meet their basic needs is assessed here. Longitudinal telephone interview surveys of 558 affected families in Hennepin County, Minn, provide information on work/grant status, labor force participation, economic status, & health care. The working poor who were dropped from AFDC have largely maintained their independence by increasing their labor force participation; however, they are vulnerable to problems arising from inadequate health care. 5 Tables. AA (Copyright 1984, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Moscovice, I., Craig, W. & Pitt, L. (1987). Meeting the basic needs of the working poor. Social Service Review, 61 (3), 420-431.

ABSTRACT: The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA) forced the denial of welfare assistance to many working recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The labor force participation & socioeconomic status of former working AFDC recipients in Hennepin County, Minn, as well as their ability to meet their basic needs during a 2-year post-OBRA period were assessed via a telephone interview survey (N = 334 Rs). The vast majority of study participants did not return to welfare, which suggests that they found the benefits of working to be more attractive than those offered by welfare. Only a subset of families appeared to have significant problems with health insurance coverage & day care. State & local governments will be able to afford to help the working poor only if they can solve the difficult problem of targeting support to those truly in need. 7 Tables. Modified HA (Copyright 1988, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

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REVIEW: (from the chapter) explore the role of paid employment in the lives of African American and Latino youth (16-24 (yrs old)) who are working at the very bottom of the service sector in Harlem / argue that a full understanding of adolescent development in high-poverty neighborhoods must take into account the psychological and sociological consequences of joining the workforce / researchers should not overlook the importance of work as a process of identity formation among inner-city youth, simply because they come from areas where the opposite condition–unemployment–remains a serious problem (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

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Raschick, M. (1997). Helping working poor families with low-interest loans. Families in Society, 78 (1), 26-35.

ABSTRACT: Creative approaches are needed to help asset-deprived, working poor families. Evaluated here is the effectiveness of one such program, the Duluth (MN) Lutheran Social Service Loan Fund Program, which provides low-interest loans to low-income families to help them confront transitional financial crises that prevent them from either continuing their education or maintaining their job. As a result of a partnership between a local human service agency & a community bank, loan recipients are able to build their credit ratings with the bank through timely repayment of their loans. Data collected 1992/93 from 20 heads of households participating in the program via interviews & household financial data show that the loan fund increased recipients' long-range financial stability, & recipients were highly satisfied with the program. 2 Tables, 20 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1997, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Riemer, D. R. (1988). The prisoners of welfare: Liberating America's poor from unemployment and low wages. New York: Praeger.

Riemer, F. J. (1997). From welfare to working poor: Prioritizing practice in research on employment-training programs for the poor. Anthropology and Education Quarterly, 28 (1), 85-110.

ABSTRACT: Presents case example data from an ethnographic study of 2 companies in which welfare recipients obtained employment, and examines the move from welfare to work. In an effort to better understand relationships among poverty, education, and work, this analysis delineates 23 men's and women's transitions from welfare poor to working poor, and focuses on the ways welfare-generated identities shape employment training pedagogies, the social organization of the workplaces, and individuals' resistance and accommodation practices at work. Specific issues include identity and poverty (educational initiatives and stigma of cultural difference), low status at work (wages as a reflection of cultural and social capital), and structure and agency (resistance vs accommodation). (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1997 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved).

Rosenkranz, T., & Theodore, N. (1997). Income tax reform and the working poor: Findings and policy directions. Chicago: Chicago Urban League.

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Suyderhoud, J. P., Loudat, T. A., & Pollock, R. L. (1994). Cumulative tax rates on the working poor: Evidence of a continuing poverty wall. Journal of Economic Issues, 28(1), 55-71.

ABSTRACT: Welfare and tax reforms of the 1980s increased work disincentives more than is recognized in recent empirical literature. Prior estimates of the cumulative "tax" burden faced by the working poor, i.e., the total of new taxes and benefit reductions from additional work effort, understate the "tax" effects of work. This paper analyzes cumulative "taxes" for Hawaii for 1985 and 1989. Cumulative "tax" rates are found to be high relative to previous estimates. Thus, work disincentives were increased as a results of the welfare and tax reforms. Moreover, cumulative "tax" rates varied considerably with income and other contextual factors (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

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Wright, S. R. & Wright, J.D. (1975). Income maintenance and work behavior. Social Policy, 6 (2), 24-32.

ABSTRACT: Addressed is the question whether the working poor reduce their labor force activity when their incomes are guaranteed. Contrasting prevailing theories of poverty, data from the NJ-Pa Negative Income Tax Experiment suggest not. The poverty population studied worked neither more nor less because of their income guarantee. This result was largely independent of ethnicity &, contrasting the culture of poverty hypothesis, also independent of the social-psychological attributes of the Rs. The apparent implication of the results is that a national program of income maintenace would, for the most part, not seriously affect labor force participation. AA (Copyright 1979, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Weiler, M. T. & Sherraden, M. (1994). Classroom and advocacy: A project on the working poor in St. Louis. Journal of Community Practice, 1 (1), 99-105.

ABSTRACT: Describes a social work seminar on employment issues devoted to a research-based advocacy project on the working poor in St. Louis, MO. All class members participated in data gathering, interviewing, & writing a report incorporating national, state, & local data on the working poor population. Particular attention was given to single mothers, the homeless, & health care issues. The project resulted in a published report, which was presented in a well-attended forum & resulted in considerable media coverage. Altogether, the project provides a successful example of combining academic work & informational advocacy. 13 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1995, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Wilson, W. J. (1996). When work disappears: The world of the new urban poor. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Child Care

Bowen, G. L. & Neenan, P. A. (1992). Child care as an economic incentive for the working poor. Families in Society, 73 (5), 295-303.

ABSTRACT: Reports the results of an investigation of the potential implications of expanding the supply of state-subsidized child care (SSCC) for the employment patterns and economic well-being of the working poor. The article focuses on parents for whom this support may be most effective as an employment incentive and support: low-income parents with preschool children who have a definite offer of a job or are already employed and who are on the waiting list for SSCC support. Two surveys were administered to 68 applicants who met study criteria, applied for SSCC, and were offered SSCC. Results support the importance and potential cost-effectiveness of expanded SSCC assistance as an employment incentive and support to Aid to Families With Dependent Children parents. Many of these parents may require additional support to improve their employment prospects and to promote their employment stability. (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1992 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved)

Chilman, C. S. (1993). Parental employment and child care trends: Some critical issues and suggested policies. Social Work, 38 (4), 451-460.

ABSTRACT: Reviews research concerning the effects of parental employment and various kinds of substitute child care on very young children and their mothers and fathers. The author also summarizes recent federal legislation concerning child care provisions for young children of working parents, income supports for the working poor population, and job-training provisions for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children. The pros and cons of full-time employment of parents of very young children are briefly examined from the viewpoints of related research and clinical observations. (PsycLIT Database Copyright 1994 American Psychological Assn, all rights reserved)

Fayissa, B. & Fessehatzion, T. (1990). Child care services in the labor force participation and income distribution of working mothers in the U.S. International Journal of Social Economics, 17 (4), 49-56.

ABSTRACT: Some evidence for the nexus of child care services, labor force participation, fertility, and family income inequality of working mothers in the U.S. is presented in a cause-effect framework. Based on sample data of 100 SMSAs in 1980, the study finds that the provision of child care services not only increases the labor force participation of working mothers, but it also results in a more equal family income distribution. Its policy implication is that the provision of child care services at an affordable cost and the

restructuring of the occupational distribution of women from low paying to higher paying jobs, especially of female-headed households, may significantly improve the economic welfare of the working poor and their children (Copyright © American Economic Association, 1998, all rights reserved).

Florida Legislature. House of Representatives. Committee on Aging and Human Services. (1996). Subsidized child care & the working poor: Interim project report, Tallahassee, FL.

Fuller, B., Holloway, S. D., Rambaud, M. & Eggers-Pierola, C. (1996). How do mothers choose child care? alternative cultural models in poor neighborhoods. Sociology of Education, 69 (2), 83-104.

ABSTRACT: Longitudinal interview data are used to explore how 14 working-poor mothers in Boston, MA, acted from a variety of cultural models or tacit pathways pertaining to choosing an acceptable child care arrangement. Described are the surface-level paths that the women followed over 3 years, including sources that informed their initial choice of child care, reactions to their care providers, & reasons for withdrawing from the arrangements. Also discussed is how alternative cultural models, which vary by ethnic group, guided the decisions of these women as they moved their children into day care, returned to work, & pulled away from welfare. 2 Tables, 50 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Hofferth, S. L. (1995). Caring for children at the poverty line. Children and Youth Services Review, 17 (1-2), 61-90.

ABSTRACT: Data from the National Child Care Survey 1990 & A Profile of Child Care Settings are presented that describe the child care needs & arrangements of working & nonworking poor & working class families relative to middle class families. Constraints on their use of care, including the availability, cost, & quality of programs, & preferences are highlighted. Implications for welfare reform are discussed. 1 Table, 12 Figures, 30 References. Adapted from the source document (Copyright 1995, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Marshall, N. L. & Marx, F. (1991). The Affordability of child care for the working poor Families in Society, 72 (4), 202-211.

ABSTRACT: The need for affordable child care for the working poor & moderate-income families is examined using interview data from a 1987 telephone survey of a random

sample of 750 Mass households with at least one child age 12 or younger. Current child care arrangements (including parental & nonparental care), the price of child care, & consequences of unaffordable child care are explored. It is concluded that lack of affordable child care is a significant problem in low- & moderate-income families, & several solutions are suggested, eg, price subsidies, changes in employer policies, & government assistance plans. 6 Tables, 2 Figures, 17 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1992, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

McMurray, G.L. (1982). Community Service Society of New York presents: Day care and the working poor: The struggle for self-sufficiency: A comprehensive study of how working poor families involved in New York City's public day care programs manage their family life and work responsibilities. New York, N.Y. : The Society.

Phillips, D. A., & Bridgmann, A. (1995). Child care for low-income families: Summary of two workshops. Washington, DC: National Academy of Sciences Press.

U.S. Congress (1994). Hearing regarding the impact of welfare reform on child care providers and the working poor, House Committee on Education and Labor. Subcommittee on Human Resources, 103rd Congress, second session, hearing held in Washington, DC, September 20, 1994.

U.S., General Accounting Office. Child care: Working poor and welfare recipients face service gaps: Report to Congressional requesters. Washington, DC : The Office; Gaithersburg, MD (P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg 20884-6015).

Vardell, R. & Whitebook, M. (1995). Worthy work, worthless wages. Dollars and Sense, 201, 16-19, 38.

ABSTRACT: While teaching & child care are generally seen as worthwhile endeavors, most professionals in the field receive such low pay that they are members of the working poor. It is argued here that these low wages constitute a nationwide education & child care subsidy, though only a short-term subsidy, since studies show that superior educational performance is directly correlated to higher teacher salaries. Several issues regarding this discrepancy are addressed. One problem is that childrearing has traditionally been defined as women's work & parental responsibility, & not paid work. Because of this assumption, the level of education & care depends largely on parents' ability to pay, rather than on state support. A grass-roots movement of child care workers called the Worthy Wage Campaign has tried since 1990 to raise community awareness about the important role these prefessionals provide. J. MacDowell (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Health Care

Schoen, C. & DesRoches, C. (1998). New York City's children: Uninsured and at risk. Findings from the Commonwealth Fund Survey of Health Care in New York City, 1997. May, The Commonwealth Fund, One East 75th Street, New York, NY, 10021-2692.

Seccombe, K. & Amey, C. (1995). Playing by the rules and losing: Health insurance and the working poor. Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 36 (2), 168-181.

ABSTRACT: Uses the National Medical Expenditure Survey (N = 7,734 employed adults) to compare the sources of health insurance coverage & the antecedents of employer-sponsored insurance among the working poor to those at higher income thresholds. Concern with the working poor is warranted because they constitute the majority of the uninsured, they do not qualify for public health programs, & their health insurance benefits have eroded substantially. Results indicate that: (1) the working poor are only 33% as likely to receive insurance from their employer as are the nonpoor, & are 5+ times as likely to be without insurance from any source; (2) employment characteristics are critical antecedents of employer-sponsored insurance &, as a set, explain variation in coverage beyond that provided by human capital/socioeconomic factors; & (3) most employment characteristics have a similar effect on the odds of coverage across income categories, except for unionization & minimum wages. Implications for health care reform are addressed. 4 Tables, 42 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1995, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Seccombe, K. (1996). Health insurance coverage among the working poor: Changes from 1977 to 1987. Research in the Sociology of Health Care, 13 (Part A), 199-227.

ABSTRACT: Compares trends in health insurance coverage across income thresholds among working adults, drawing on 1977 & 1987 medical expenditure surveys (N = 17,287 respondents). Results suggest: (1) the working poor & economically vulnerable experienced a decline in health insurance coverage & a decline in private coverage, whereas coverage among the nonpoor remained constant; (2) virtually all selected subgroups among the working poor & economically vulnerable who experienced any changes had an increased likelihood of being uninsured & a decreased likelihood of having private health insurance, whereas virtually all selected subgroups of the nonpoor who experienced changes had them in the opposite direction; (3) differences in the likelihood of being completely uninsured & in having private insurance among income groups remained after controlling for the influences of occupation, human capital, & sociodemographic factors; & (4) the odds

of being uninsured increased at a faster rate for the poor than for the nonpoor, net the influence of other factors. 5 Tables, 56 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1996, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Stellman, J. M. (1987). The working environment of the working poor: An analysis based on workers' compensation claims, census data and known risk factors. Women and Health, 12 (3-4), 83-101.

ABSTRACT: Analysis of 1980 US Census data reveals that a sizeable % of adult Fs employed full-time worked in F-dominated service, sales, & factory occupations & had family incomes placed them in poverty status. Workers' compensation data on Fs in these occupations, drawn from the 27-state Supplemental Data System, show that they filed approximately 250,000 claims for compensation in 1980. Results of analysis of the claims by nature of injury & body part affected are consistent with the published medical literature. Injury to the back is the leading complaint, followed by hand & wrist injuries. Compensation data, however, are usually reflective of acute conditions, especially traumatic injury, not of chronic illness & injuries. Review of additional data from the medical & scientific literature shows the presence of cancer-causing agents, infectious agents, reproductive toxins, safety hazards, & social stressors in these occupations. 6 Tables, 22 References. HA (Copyright 1988, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)

Weitzman, B. C. & Berry, C. A. (1992). Health status and health care utilization among New York City home attendants: An illustration of the needs of working poor, immigrant women. Women and Health, 19 (2-3), 87-105.

ABSTRACT: Interview data from a sample of 387 newly hired, female, immigrant home health care attendants in New York City are used to study the effects of health insurance on the health status & health care utilization of the working poor. Findings indicate that attendants & their children are less likely than other Americans to utilize basic health services, despite the fact that they are more likely to indicate only fair or poor health status. It is concluded that poor, immigrant women face obstacles to health care that are greater than those faced by uninsured & poor native Americans. 8 Tables, 21 References. Adapted from the source document. (Copyright 1993, Sociological Abstracts, all rights reserved.)